

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 November 2004 (18.11.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/098655 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61L 2/00**,
9/00, C11D 7/54

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/012027

(22) International Filing Date: 18 April 2003 (18.04.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,

CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations*
- *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

- *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SUPPLEMENTAL OZONE TREATMENT METHODS FOR DIFFICULT CLEANING AND STERILIZING APPLICATIONS

(57) Abstract: Methods of treating soiled items, such as medical instruments, with supplemental ozone treatment, such as combinations of ozone and one or more cleaning agents or sterilants, are provided. The methods involve treating soiled items with ozone to facilitate cleaning, ensure complete sterility, and degrade residual chemical agents, such as sterilants or cleaning agents, from both the instrument and wash/rinse effluent. By treating an item with ozone in a supplemental wash or rinse in cooperation with one or more other chemicals used to clean and sterilize the item, one can ensure that the item and effluent are free of soiling, infectious agents, and chemical residues while minimizing any oxidation-related damage to the item or pollution of the environment.



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